Independent Office,
New York, 5 Nov., 1863.

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My Dear Garrison,

I have this moment read a telegram announcing the arrival of the Java at Halifax, and therefore infer that you will pretty surely be in Boston to-morrow. I cannot deny myself the pleasure of sending you a word of welcome and congratulation. If I could possibly

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have home, I should go
to meet you in person, for
I am very impatient to
see you and have a good
long talk about what
has happened abroad
and at home during your
absence. I congratulate
you that your dear wife
has borne your absence
so bravely, and even gain-
ed somewhat in health;
and I congratulate you
also upon the reception
you have had in the old
world, and upon the words

of wisdom you were inspired to utter in the trying circumstances in which you were placed. I cannot tell you with what interest I have followed your steps, how eagerly I have read your speeches, and how happy I have been in hearing from time to time, that your health was improving.

My warmest welcome also to Frankie, and my love to all your household.

Yours, lovingly,

Oliver Johnson.

G. J.,
N. Y., Nov. 5, 1867.